Appointments in AIIMS

†1845. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointments are being made by senior officers in All India Institute of Medical Sciences arbitrarily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether prescribed formalities were completed before making these appointments; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Harnessing of herbal medicines in North-East

1846. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North-East is a treasure trove of bio-diversity, and if harnessed, can be a major player in the world global market for herbal medicines and can strengthen the economy of the region;

(b) if so, Government's assessment thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) It is correct that North-East region is very rich in bio-diversity which includes medicinal plants. Their sustainable use will augment supply of raw drugs and also improve economy of the region.

(b) and (c) Various action programmes have been introduced by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. These include: (i) Bio-sphere reserve

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.